

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 00659 091721Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 HA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /097 W
-----035917 091741Z /41

P R 091645Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7429
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0659

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO NEW CABINET NEGATIVE

REF: NICOSIA 0642

SUMMARY: CLERIDES' PARTY WITHDREW SUPPORT IN WAKE OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 00659 091721Z

NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS. APPOINTMENTS WIDELY CRITICIZED.
END SUMMARY

1. INITIAL REACTION TO NEW APPOINTEESTO CABINET HAS REFLECTED
GENERAL CONCERN AND, IN SOME QUARTERS, RIDICULE OVER THEIR LACK
OF STATURE AND EXPERIENCE. IN SEVERAL PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS
WITH WELL INFORMED CYPRIOTS WE HAVE HEARD EXPRESSIONS OF DISMAY

AT NEW CABINET MEMBERS, LACK OF QUALIFICATION. COMMON VIEW IN THESE CIRCLES IS THAT IN THE SMALL SOCIETY OF CYPRUS PERSONS OF GENUINE ABILITY BECOME WIDELY KNOWN AND RESPECTED; IT IS THEREFORE LUDICROUS THAT KYPRIANOU SHOULD SELECT FOR TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT A GROUP OF MEN WHO ARE VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN.

2. HARSH NEWS MEDIA CRITICISM APPEARED MARCH 9 IN RIGHT-WING NEWSPAPER SIMERINI, WHICH SAID KYPRIANOU'S SELECTION OF NEW MINISTERS FROM HIS OWN PARTY FAILED TO PROMOTE UNITY, THAT NEW GOVERNMENT IS WEAK AND REFLECTS NO PHILOSOPHY, AND THAT THIS FIRST ACT OF THE NEW PRESIDENT CREATED NO CONFIDENCE REGARDING FUTURE HANDLING OF EITHER INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. PAPER WAS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF RETENTION OF SOFIANOS (AN OLD SIMERINI ENEMY) AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION, WHICH IT CALLED A PROVOCATION WHICH WOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

3. DEMOCRATIC RALLY PARTY (DRP) OF GLAFCOS CLERIDES ISSUED STATEMENT EVENING MARCH 8 SAYING IT HAD WITHDRAWN ALL SUPPORT FROM KYPRIANOU AND HIS GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS "DANGEROUSLY WEAK" AND CONSTITUTED A NEGATION OF KYPRIANOU'S ASSURANCES THAT A STRONG, NON-PARTISAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED. DRP THREATENED TO WITHDRAW ITS REPRESENTATIVE, CLERIDES, FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL.

4. SEVERAL PAPERS CARRIED ATHENS PRESS AGENCY REPORT THAT GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT EVENING MARCH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NICOSI 00659 091721Z

8: "AS I HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CYPRUS. I CANNOT BUT EXPRESS MY DEEPEST SORROW BECAUSE RECENT EVENTS THREATEN TO DISTURB NATIONAL UNITY WHICH AT THIS MOMENT IS MORE NECESSARY THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME." IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER KARAMANLIS WAS REFERRING TO KYPRIANOU'S FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT OR CLERIDES' WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT.

5. ONLY FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON NEW GOVERNMENT TO APPEAR SO FAR WAS IN PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMOCRATIC PARTY MOUTHPIECE ELEFTHERI KYPROS WHICH SAID NEW CABINET MET EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE AND COMBINED VALUABLE EXPERIENCE OF THE OLDER WITH ENTHUSIASM OF YOUTH (AVERAGE AGE OF NEW APPOINTEES IS 44).

6. COMMENT: RATHER THAN FORMING A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY BASED ON MERIT, AS HE PROMISED, KYPRIANOU HAS POLITICIZED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THREE (3) OF THE MINISTERS AND ONE (1) DEPUTY MINISTER (ROLANDIS, PAPAGEORGHIU, THEODOULOU, AND KATSELLIS) ARE ACKNOWLEDGED MEMBERS OF THE KYPRIANOU DEMOCRATIC PARTY. TWO (2) OTHERS (MICHAELIDES AND ELIADES) ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE DP LOYALISTS (ALTHOUGH ELIADES ALSO IS A FORMER EDEK MEMBER). EMPHASIS ON LOYALTY IS BEING TAKEN BADLY BY CLERIDES AND

THE DEMOCRATIC RALLY. CLERIDES FEELS DOUBLE CROSSED AS HE
THOUGHT HE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING WITH KYPRIANOU THAT THERE WOULD
BE CONSULTATION BEFORE THE NEW CABINET WAS NAMED (WHICH APPARENT-
LY DID NOT OCCUR) AND THAT THE CABINET WOULD BE COMPOSED OF RECOG-
NIZED CONSERVATIVE LEADERS. THE RIGHT WING WILL BE FURTHER
TROUBLED IN THE WAKE OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT JUST MADE BY THE COM-
MUNIST PARTY AKEL THAT IT FINDS THE NEW CABINET ACCEPTABLE WVEN
THOUGH ALL SHADES OF OPINION EXCEPT AKEL ARE REPRESENTED.
CRAWFORD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NICOSI00659
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780106-0684
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780388/aaaacwcp.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c714cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NICOSIA 642
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3387451
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL REACTION TO NEW CABINET NEGATIVE
TAGS: PGOV, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c714cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014